

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

AID-05 SSC-01 EB-07 CIEP-01 SR-02 ORM-01 SCCT-01

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3116

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 7048

KUWAIT PASS DOHA/GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL/BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, JO

SUBJ: NEW JORDANIAN CABINET: BIOGRAPHIC PROFILES

REF: AMMAN 7047

1. SUMMARY: IN ADDITION TO GENERAL ASSESSMENT (REFTEL), EMBASSY SUBMITS FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC PROFILES ON NEWLY-APPOINTED JORDANIAN CABINET MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER - ZAYD AL-RIFAI: RETAINS SAME POSITIONS AS IN OUTGOING GOVERNMENT; EAST BANK BORN, BUT GRANDFATHER "IMMIGRATED" TO JORDAN FROM PALESTINE (SAFAD); 38 YEARS OLD, FRIEND SINCE CHILDHOOD AND CLOSEST ADVISOR TO KING HUSSEIN; SON OF A FORMER PRIME MINISTER; HARVARD-EDUCATED WITH PRIMARY EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ADMIRER FOR INTELLIGENCE BUT WITHOUT POLITICAL BASE. NOT A POPULAR FIGURE WITH JORDANIAN PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY EAST BANKER TRADITIONALISTS. CRITICIZED FOR PERSONAL CORRUPTION AND OVERCONCENTRATION ON FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENSE ISSUES AT EXPENSE OF DOMESTIC AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS.

2. MIN OF RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT - DR. SUBHI AMIN AMR, 67 (NO CHANGE); NON-POLITICAL WEST BANKER (HEBRON) WHOSE PRIMARY JOB HAS AND CONTINUES TO BE HANDLING UNRWA AND PALESTINE REFUGEE AFFAIRS; HAS PURSUED PRIMARILY MEDICAL CAREER.

3. MIN OF INFO AND CULTURE - SALAH ABU ZAYD, 51; EAST BANKER SENATOR (IRBID); FORMER FOREIGN INFORMATION MINISTER, AND LONGTIME PERSONAL ADVISOR AND SPEECH WRITER FOR KING; ENERGETIC AND ADRIOT. EXPECTED TO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN MIDEAST AND INTERARAB FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

4. MIN OF TRANSPORT - KHALID AL-HAJ HASAN, ABOUT 49; EAST BANKER; US EDUCATED IN AGRICULTURE; SON-IN-LAW OF POWERFUL COMMERCIAL PERSONALITY RIYADH MIFLAH AND CURRENTLY ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER OF JORDAN CEMENT FACTORY.

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GENERAL MANAGER OF JORDAN CEMENT FACTORY.

5. MIN OF EDUCATION - DHUQAN HINDAWI, ABOUT 47; EAST BANKER TRANSFERRED FROM MIN OF FINANCE; MA, UNIV. OF MARYLAND; FORMER MIN OF EDUCATION AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE; EDUCATOR BY PROFESSION; AMBITIOUS AND COMPETENT; EX-BAAHIST.

6. MIN OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR - SAMI AYYUB, ABOUT 58;

CIRCASSIAN FROM AMMAN; EXCEPT FOR TOUR AS DIR OF ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, FORMER MINAG HAS SPENT ENTIRE CAREER AS AGRICULTURALIST: PRIMARILY A NON-POLITICAL TECHNICIAN.

7. MIN OF FINANCE - SALEM AL-JUSA'DEH, ABOUT 45; TRANSFERRED FROM MIN OF JUSTICE; EAST BANKER WHO HAS SPENT ENTIRE CAREER AS LAWYER AND JUDGE BEFORE COMING MIN JUSTICE; NON-POLITICAL FIGURE HEAD.

8. MIN OF TOURISM AND ANTIQUITIES - GHALIB BARAKAT, 47 (NO CHANGE) PALESTINIAN TECHNOCRAT BORN IN JAFFA, AUB GRADUATE WHO HAS SPENT VIRTUALLY ENTIRE CAREER MIN OF TOURISM; BECAME MINISTER 1972.

9. MIN OF COMMUNICATIONS - AHMAD SHUBAKI, 44: NON-POLITICAL TECHNOCRAT; MIN OF PUBLIC WORKS IN OUTGOING CABINET; EAST BANK ARCHITECT WHO HAD SPENT ENTIRE CAREER MIN OF PUBLIC WORKS.

10. MIN OF SUPPLY - ALI HASAN 'ODEH, 54, PALESTINIAN FROM QALQILYA; TRANSFERRED FROM DIR OF AUDIT BUREAU; HAS SPENT CAREER AS TECHNICAL ASSISTANT TO VARIOUS MINISTERS AND DIRECTORS (MIN EDUCATION, MIN INTERIOR, PASSPORT DEPT); NON-POLITICAL; COMPETENT ADMINISTRATOR.

11. MIN OF AGRICULTURE - MARWAN AL-HMOUD, 32 (NO CHANGE); SON OF FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND INTERIOR (1956-57) AND REPRESENTATIVE OF PRIMINENT ARABIYYAT TRIBE; EDUCATED AT BIR ZAYT COLLEGE NEAR JERUSALEM; APPOINTED MINISTER FIRST TIME 1973; FORMER MAYOR OF SALT; MARGINALLY COMPETENT; HOLDS POSITION DUE TO FAMILY TIES; NOT STRONG MINISTER IN PAST.

12. MIN OF AWQAF, ISLAMIC AND HOLY PLACES AFFAIRS - SHAYKH ABD AL-AZIZ AL-KHAYYAT, ABOUT 50 (NO CHANGE); PALESTINIAN NATIONALIST FROM NABLUS APPOINTED TO POSITION IN 1973; FORMER DEAN OF CONFIDENTIAL

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AMMAN ISLAMIC LAW COLLEGE; GRADUATE OF CAIRO AZHAR UNIV. PROMINENT AS GOVERNMENT PROTESTOR OF ISRAELI EXCAVATIONS IN JERUSALEM.

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3117

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 AMMAN 7048

KUWAIT PASS DOHA/GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL/BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

13. MIN OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS - SADIQ ASH-SHARA', 52,
CONTROVERSIAL EAST BANKER TRANSFERRED FROM BEING MIN OF SUPPLY;

MIN CAREER WHICH COLMINATED IN APPOINTMENT 1958 AS DEPUTY COS, JAA; IMPLICATED IN 1957 ALLI ABU NUWAR CONSPIRACY, SENTENCED TO DEATH 1959, JAILED AND RECEIVED AMNISTY 1963, LIVED KUWAIT 1964-70, REPORTEDLY SOMMONED AMMAN BY WASFI TEL; FORMER GOVERNOR OF IRBID; INTELLIGENT AND COMPETENT ADMINISTRATOR, LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

14. MIN OF PUBLIC WORKS - MAHMUD AL-HAWAMDEH, 44; EAST BANKER EDUCATED IN UK; THIS HIS FIRST MINISTERIAL POST; HAS OCCUPIED SERIES OF TECHNICAL POSITIONS (VICE PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL RESOURCE AUTHORITY, PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PHOSPHATE CO. AND OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS COMPANY) COMPETENT BUT SOMEWHAT RIGID IN PAST JOBS.

15. MIN OF INTERIOR - THARWAT AT-TALHUNI, 52, EAST BANKER TRAINED IN PHARMACOLOGY; TRANSFERRED FROM GOVERNOR OF AMMAN: HAS OCCUPIED VARIOUS GOVERNMENT POSTS INCLUDING DIR OF CIVIL STATUS BUREAU AND PASSPORT DEPT; THIS HIS FIRST MINISTERIAL POST. CURRENTLY IN US ON NOV-DEC AID-FINANCED VIP TRAVEL GRANT.

16. MIN OF STATE FOR PRIME MINISTER'S AFFAIRS - RAKAN 'INAD AL-JAZI, 46; EAST BANKER FROM POWERFUL SOUTHER BEDOUIN TRIBE; TRANSFERRED FROM COS FOR MANPOWER IN JORDAN ARMY AND RECENTLY PROMOTED TO MAJOR GENERAL; TRAINED SANDHURST AND AMERICAN STAFF COLLEGE; HAS BEEN 40TH BRIGADE COMMANDER: ARMORED CORPS COMMANDER AND MIL ATTACHE IN LONDON; SERVED KING AS SECRETARY AND MIL ADVISOR; THIS HIS FIRST MINISTERIAL POST; FAVORITE OF KING, BUT NOT KNOWN FOR HIS DRIVE OR PERFORMANCE.

17. MIN OF JUSTICE - NAJI HUSSEIN TARAWNEH, 44; EAST BANKER EDUCATED IN SYRIA AND HAS SPENT ENTIRE CAREER IN JUDICIARY; PREVIOUSLY PRESIDENT OF INCOME TAX COURT OF APPEALS; THIS HIS FIRST MINISTERIAL POST.

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18. MIN OF HEALTH - TRAD SUUD AL-QADI, 38; EAST BANK (BENI KHALID TRIBE) SON OF PARLIAMENT DEPUTY WHO REPRESENTS NORTHERN BEDOUIN TRIBES; MD DEGREE FROM POLAND KRAKAW UNIVERSITY; DOCTOR IN MIN OF HEALTH; OPERATED OWN CLINIC IN IRBID; THIS HIS FIRST MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENT.

19. MIN OF THE INTERIOR FOR MUNICIPAL AND RURAL AFFAIRS - DR. MOHAMMAD 'IDUB AZ-ZABIN, 31; EAST BANKER FROM BEDOUIN TRIBAL BACKGROUND, MD DEGREE FROM CAIRO UNIVERSITY; WORKED AS DOCTOR IN MIN OF HEALTH, THEN PRIVATE PRACTICE IN MADABA; THIS HIS FIRST MINISTERIAL POST.

20. MIN OF NATIONAL ECONOMY - DR. RAJAI MO'ASHER, 30; EAST BANKER, THE ONLY CHRISTIAN IN CABINET; PHD IN MARKETING FROM

ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY; UNIV PROFESSOR IN US FOR 2 YEARS; TWO YEARS MEMBER ROYAL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY (RSS); 6 MONTHS PRIVATE BUSINESS; THIS HIS FIRST MINISTERIAL POST. CLOSE TO CROWN PRINCE. IN RSS, IN CHARGE OF MEASURING ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE HE CAN HELP CROWN PRINCE IMPROVE IT FROM WITHIN GOVERNMENT.

21. IN ADDITION TO MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS, ROYAL DECREE ISSUED BY WHICH MUDHAR BADRAN REPLACES BAHJAT TALHOUNI AS CHIEF OF ROYAL DIWAN. BADRAN, ABOUT 43, FORMER MIN OF EDUCATION; FAMILY FROM WEST BANK ALTHOUGH HE BORN EAST BANK; LAW EDUCATION; FORMER CHIEF OF GID, THEN KING'S COUNSELOR FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS AND CHIEF ROYAL CHAMBERLAIN; RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSERVATIVE, STAUNCH EAST BANK SUPPORTER OF MONARCHY BUT WITH FAMILY TIES ON WEST BANK.
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